Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 to 10 as shown below. The claims, as currently pending in the application, read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing method performed by a server for providing data to a terminal via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

a reception step of receiving a request for data loading from the terminal;

a completion discrimination step of discriminating whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress of being generated;

a first transmission step of transmitting to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed;

a prediction step of predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof ~~has not completed~~ is in progress; and

a second transmission step of transmitting to the terminal during the generation of the requested data the predicted end time together with display information indicating that the data generation is in progress.

2. (Previously Presented) A data processing method according to claim 1, wherein said prediction step predicts the end time based on the size of the data to be generated.

3. (Previously Presented) A data processing method according to claim 1, wherein said data are result of execution of a predetermined process, and said prediction

step predicts the end time based on the time required for executing said predetermined process.

4. (Currently Amended) A data processing method performed by a terminal for receiving data from a server via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

an issuing step of issuing a request for data loading to the server;

a reception step of receiving from the server in response to the request either the requested data, or a predicted end time for generation of the requested data together with display data indicating that the data generation is in progress;

a display step of displaying the requested data or displaying the display data received from the server indicating that the data generation is in progress in response to the request;

a data discriminating step of discriminating whether the received data is the requested data or [[a]] is the predicted end time for generation of the requested data together with the display data indicating that the data generation is in progress; and

a re-issuing step of, in a case where the received data comprises the predicted end time for [[data]] generation is received of the requested data, [[of]] re-issuing the request for data loading to the server when the predicted end time is reached.

5. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus for providing data to a terminal from a server via a network, the apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving a request for data loading from the terminal;

completion discrimination means for discriminating whether a generation of

- 3 -

requested data has completed <u>or is in progress of being generated</u>;

first transmission <u>means</u> for transmitting to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed;

a prediction means for predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof ~~has not completed~~ <u>is in progress</u>; and

second transmission means for transmitting to the terminal <u>during the generation of the requested data</u> the predicted end time together with display information indicating that the data generation is in progress.

6. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said prediction means predicts the end time based on the size of the data to be generated.

7. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said data are result of execution of a predetermined process, and said prediction means predicts the end time based on the time required for executing said predetermined process.

8. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus for receiving data at a terminal from a server via a network, the apparatus comprising:

issuing means for issuing a request for data loading to the server;

<u>a reception means for receiving from the server in response to the request either the requested data, or a predicted end time for generation of the requested data</u>

together with display data indicating that the data generation is in progress of being generated;

display means for displaying the requested data or the display data received from the server indicating that the data generation is in progress ~~in response to the request~~;

data discriminating means for discriminating whether the received data is the requested data or [[a]] is the predicted end time for generation of the requested data together with the display data ~~indicating that the data generation is in progress~~; and

control means adapted to, in a case where the received data comprises the predicted end time for [[data]] generation ~~is received~~ of the requested data, [[to so]] control said issuing means as to re-issue the request for data loading to the server when the predicted end time is reached.


9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a data processing program for controlling a server computer to perform data processing for providing data from the server to a terminal via a network, said program comprising codes for causing the computer to perform the steps of:

a reception step of receiving a request for data loading from a terminal;

a completion discrimination step of discriminating whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress of being generated;

a first transmission step of transmitting to the terminal [[step]] the requested data if the generation thereof has completed; ~~ended;~~

a prediction step of predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof ~~has not completed~~ is in progress; and

- 5 -

a second transmission step of transmitting to the terminal <u>during the generation of the requested data</u> the predicted end time together with display information indicating that the data generation is in progress.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a data processing program for controlling a terminal computer to perform data processing for receiving data from a server via a network, said program comprising codes for causing the computer to perform <u>the steps of</u>:

an issuing step of issuing a request for data loading to the server;

<u>a reception step of receiving from the server in response to the request either the requested data, or a predicted end time for generation of the requested data together with display data indicating that the data generation is in progress;</u>

a display step of displaying <u>the requested data or the</u> display data received from the server <u>indicating that the data generation is in progress</u> ~~in response to the request~~;

<u>a</u> data discriminating step of discriminating whether the received data is the requested data or [[a]] <u>is the</u> predicted end time for generation of the requested data together with the display data ~~indicating that the data generation is in progress~~; and

a re-issuing step <u>of</u>, in <u>a</u> case <u>where the received data comprises</u> the predicted end time for [[data]] generation ~~is received~~ <u>of the requested data</u>, [[of]] re-issuing the request <u>for</u> the data loading to the server when the predicted end time is reached.

- 6 -